

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 MC-02 AID-20 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 IGA-02 PC-15 INT-08 DOTE-00 NSF-04 CU-04

AGR-20 SCEM-02 SCI-06 DRC-01 /284 W

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R 110333Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8276

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4301

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID PFOR MU

SUBJ: DISPLAY OF US INTEREST IN OMAN

REF: KUWAIT 4205

SUMMARY: AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL, RECENTLY INCREASED US GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INTEREST IN OMAN, AND OMANI DESIRE FOR CLOSER TIES WITH US, DICTATE THAT US PROGRAMS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AND EXTENDED. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT PLAN TO DISCUSS IDEAS DURING JANUARY VISIT OF OMANI ECONOMIC ADVISER TOWNSEND AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT HARAMI, ESPECIALLY ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGHWAY AUTHORITY AND GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE. END SUMMARY.

1. THIS MESSAGE SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH KUWAIT 4205.

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2. AMONG TOP LEVEL OMANI LEADERS SEEKING GREATER DISPLAY OF US INTEREST IN OMAN IS DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER FAHAR, MEMBER OF RULING FAMILY. DURING MY NOVEMBER VISIT TO MUSCAT, FAHAR APPEALED SIMPLY BUT FORCEFULLY FOR US ASSISTANCE, WITHOUT MAKING SPECIFIC REQUEST. HIS PRINCIPAL ADVISER, BRIGADIER SEMPLE, LATER TOLD ME REPLY NEED NOT BE MONETARY AID BUT AT LEAST SYMBOLIC SHOW IF INTEREST TO REASSURE OMANIS OF US CONCERN. SAYYID FAHAR HAS SINCE TOLD QUINLAN THAT MALONEY VISIT WAS EXTREMELY USEFUL AND HE HOPED FOR FURTHER EXPRESSION OF US INTEREST, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY IN MILITARY FIELD.

3. RE PARA 9 AND 10 REFTEL, QUINLAN AND I BOTH RECOMMEND IDEA OF OMANI HIGHWAY AUTHORITY AND US-OMANI GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER BE EXPLORED DURING PLANNED EARLY JANUARY VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY TOWNSEND AND MINDEVELOPMENT KARIM AHMAD AL-HARAMI. NATIONAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION OR PRIVATE GROUP, THE HIGHWAY INSTITUTE, MAY BE INTERESTED. AS TO GEOLOGIC STUDY CENTER, USGS REP COLEMAN SAYS HIS ORGANIZATION IS VERY INTERESTED IN WORKING IN OMAN BEYOND CURRENT 90-DAY SURVEY, ON REIMBURSEABLE BASIS. COLEMAN SUGGESTS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION MAY BE WILLING FINANCE COLLABORATION PROPOSAL ESPECIALLY IF PREPARED BY US UNIVERSITY. RELATIVE PAUCITY GEOLOGIC INFORMATION ON OMAN, PLUS FACT THAT STRUCTURES HERE ARE OUTSTANDING FOR PLATE TECTONICS AND OTHER STUDIES, SHOULD PROVIDE ENTICING PROSPECT FOR GEOLOGICALLY-ORIENTED SCHOOLS.

4. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY FOR TOWNSEND-HARAMI DISCUSSION HAS SINCE ARISEN. FMC CONTRACT CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT OMAN TO MARKET FMC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, BUT DEPT ARGICULTURE TOTALLY LACKING IN SUCH EXPERTISE. EMBASSY MUSCAT QUERY AS TO WHETHER IESC SPECIALIST MIGHT BE USEFUL BROUGHT IMMEDIATE ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM OMAN AGRICULTURE DIRECTOR. DEPARTMENT MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER INTERESTING FORD OR OTHER FOUNDATION IN MEETING WITH TOWNSEND IN JANUARY. FORD FINANCED VERY USEFUL MANPOWER RESOURCES SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY AFME IN 1971 AND FOR FOUNDATION'S NATIONAL PLANNING CAPABILITIES COULD BE MOST USEFUL AT THIS STAGE IN OMAN'S DEVELOPMENT.

5. EMBASSY MUSCAT IS SURVEYING THE SUPPLY OF OMANI GRADUATES OF MIDDLE EASTERN, RUSSIAN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES FOR US CONFIDENTIAL

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GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS. IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO SECURE RELEASE OF ANY EDUCATED OMANI, BUT MINEDUCATION AND OTHERS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN UPGRADING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF UNIVERSIX GRADUATES IN THIS CATEGORY.

6. SINCE US POLICY PAPER ON OMAN WAS ISSUED IN APRIL 1972, US COMMERCIAL PRESENCE HAS MULTIPLIED. MARDELA AND FMC STAFFS ARE ENERGETICALLY IMPLEMENTING NEW CONTRACTS, BANK OF AMERICA

HAS MINORITY INTEREST IN NEW BANK, PAN AM IS ABOUT TO SIGN AGREEMENT TO OPERATE SEEB AIRPORT, INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION, BECHTEL EXPECTS FEASIBILITY STUDY CONTRACT, AND AMERICAN

OIL AND MINERALS PROSPECTING UNDERWAY. OUR APRIL 1972 ASSESSMENT OF US COMMERCIAL INTERESTS HAS CLEARLY BEEN OVERTAKEN AND I NOW SUGGEST THAT THIS CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING US PROGRAMS PROPOSALS.
STOLTZFUS

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